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Peter B. and Letitia P. Porter Slave Affidavit, July 1820

Below is Peter B. and Letitia P. Porter's slave affidavit. The original is transcribed from:

Mss. W-43
Buffalo (N.Y.)
Buffalo town meeting proceedings, 1814-1837

(copy)

The declaration and affidavit of Peter B. Porter of Black Rock in the Town of Buffalo County of Niagara and State of New York, and of Letitia P. Porter, his wife, made on the 28th day of July 1820 pursuant to an act entitled "an act relative to slaves and servants" passed the 31st of March 1817.

The said Letitia P. Porter declares that in consequence of her late intermarriage with the said Peter B. Porter she has removed from the State of Kentucky into the State of New York with a view permanently to reside therein, and that she brought with her in the month of June last from Kentucky the following described negro slaves which were her property, but which, by the said intermarriage have been the property of her said husband. Namely:

Males

John Caldwell Born in the month of April one thousand and eight hundred.

Richard Caldwell Born in the month of April one thousand eight hundred and ten.

Females

Lannia Caldwell Born in the month of July one thousand eight hundred and three.

Mildred Caldwell Born in the month of August one thousand eight hundred and six.

Betsey Gatewood Born in the month of December one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

The names and ages of the said slaves were taken from the family record or register of slaves of the late John Breckinridge, Esq. of Kentucky and are presumed to be correctly stated.

But as the register specifies only the year and month of birth of slaves and omits the day of the month this last circumstance is necessarily omitted in this declaration for want of information.

The before described negroes (who by the laws of Kentucky were the property of and slaves for life to, the said Peter and Letitia) were brought into the State of New York with a view to their emancipation from slavery and to their being held as servants until the males severally arrived at the age twenty-eight years and the females at the age of twenty-five years, under the authority and subject to the provisions of the act of the 31st of March 1817 before mentioned.

Black Rock, July 1820

Peter B. Porter

Letitia P. Porter

The above named P.B. Porter and Letitia P. Porter being this day duly sworn before me severally made oath that the several matters set forth by them in the proceeding affidavit are true according to the best of their knowledge and belief.

James L. Barton

Commissioner

I certify the above to be a true copy of an affidavit given me this day by P.B. Porter one of the parties named in the above.

Recorded this 28th July 1820

Joseph Stocking, T. Clerk